

of forgiveness — a forgiveness accomplished through the sacrifice of Himself on the cross. He finished the work of salvation by paying with His life the penalty of our guilt. He also broke the power of sin over us so that now we need no longer be under the power of sin. If Christ has freed us from guilt and power of sin, it means that we are no longer rebels who desire to insult God. Jesus Christ, therefore, is the answer to our problem. It is my hope and prayer that you will not cast Him aside.

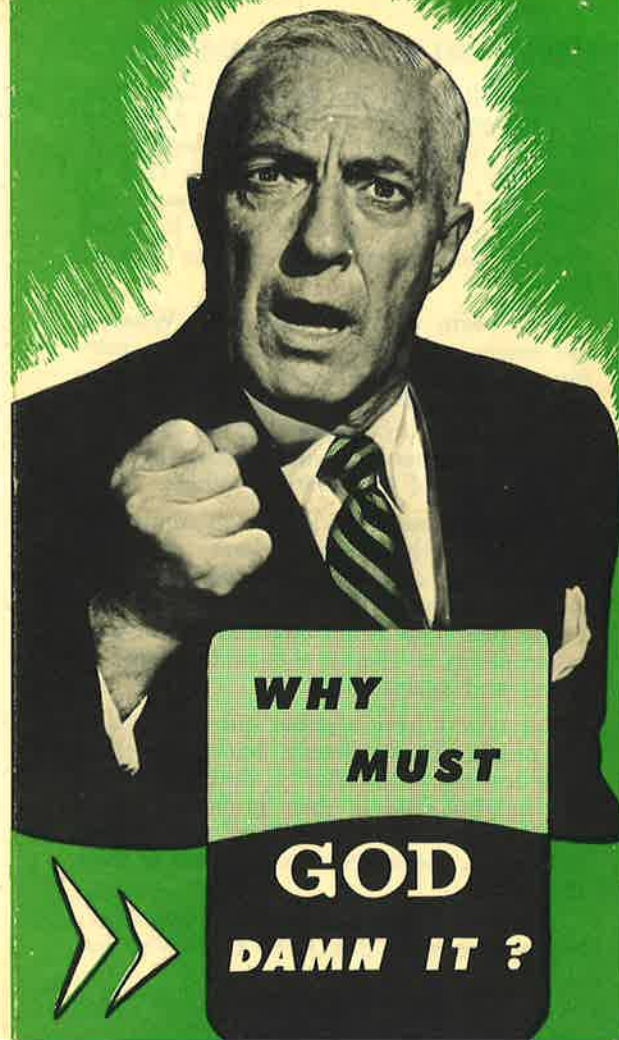
You have used your mouth to curse — I now invite and urge you to confess Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, thereby blessing Him with the very lips which once cursed His Name.

— Earl Jabaay

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WHY MUST GOD DAMN IT?

That title hurts me because I hate even to quote people who call upon the Almighty to damn things, but I must be understood. Yesterday I heard my barber ask God to damn his scissors because they were not cutting properly. I asked him why he asked God to damn them and he didn't know. Do you?

Let's begin with this question: What is the reason why we curse? Actually, profanity is caused by a lust for power. It gives us a sensation of superiority over others and seems to put us in command of the situation. We have the need for such feelings because of our sense of inferiority to others.

If we are honest, we'll have to admit that deep down within us, we feel very weak and uncertain of ourselves. We need power but we do not have it. Yet we need it to get on top of life. The use of God's Name in profanity seems to give us this needed sense of power and superiority.

But now I have another question: Why do people, unconsciously harboring these deep feelings of inferiority, drag the Name of Almighty God in their profanity? Why is God asked to damn things, rather than the mayor, the angels, the preacher or even the devils?

The reason is clear: the curser uses God's Name because it **INSULTS** God Who has

said: "Thou shalt not take the name of Jehovah thy God in vain." Just as a traffic-violator has the urge to insult the policeman who gives him a ticket and the judge who fines him, so the sinner wants to insult God by dragging Him off His holy throne, humiliating His Person, mocking His justice and ridiculing His Name. We attempt to degrade God *just because* we know we are guilty of breaking His Commandments.

We have learned, therefore, that the use of God's Name (not the mayor's name, nor the Devil's) in profanity seems to give us a sense of power over other people. In other words, we feel weak before men but so powerful before God that we even dare to insult Him! Something is terribly wrong with the person who gains power among men by insulting God.

And what is wrong? God tells us: "*I have nourished and brought up children and they have rebelled against me. My people are laden with iniquity, a seed of evil-doers, children that deal corruptly! They have forsaken Jehovah.*" Isaiah 1:2, 4. This can mean nothing else than that we have rebelled against God!

I hope you can now see with me that there is only one thing to do — surrender to God. Stop fighting. Seek peace with God on His terms. The Bible says "we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5:1. Jesus comes to us with words